

**BAKER BOTTS LLP.**

Atty. Docket No. A33432 (070050.1354)

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial medical article catheter prepared by treating a polymeric medical article catheter, for an effective period of time, with a solution consisting essentially of one or more solvents comprising a solvent and a mixture an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 to 1:5.
2. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial medical article catheter of claim 1, wherein the ratio is 1:1.
3. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial medical article catheter of claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial medical article catheter of claim 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of between 10 and 30 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 70 and 90 percent (volume/volume) ethanol.

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5. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial ~~medical article~~ ~~catheter~~ of claim 7, 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of 20 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 80 percent (volume/volume) ethanol.
6. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial ~~medical article~~ ~~catheter~~ of claim 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of between 75 and 95 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 5 and 25 percent (volume/volume) methanol.
7. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial ~~medical article~~ ~~catheter~~ of claim 6 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of about 85 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 15 percent (volume/volume) methanol.
8. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial ~~medical article~~ ~~catheter~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~article~~ ~~catheter~~ is a hydrophilic polymeric ~~medical article~~ ~~catheter~~.
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 9 1, wherein the catheter has a lumen ~~which~~ ~~that~~ is treated, for an effective period of time, ~~with the~~ ~~solution consisting essentially of one or more solvents and the mixture of~~ ~~chlorhexidine free base and water soluble chlorhexidine salt with a solution~~ ~~consisting essentially of one or more solvents with a solution comprising a~~

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solvent and an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 to 1:5.

11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently amended) The catheter of claim 9 1, wherein the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine diacetate.
13. (Original) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine diacetate.
14. (Cancelled).
15. (Cancelled).
16. (Cancelled).
17. (Currently amended) An antimicrobial ~~medical article~~ catheter prepared by treating a polymeric ~~medical article~~ catheter, for an effective period of time, with a solution consisting essentially of comprising (1) ~~one or more solvents~~ a solvent; (2) a mixture an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt; and (3) ~~one or more of a substance selected from the group consisting of~~ (i) an organic acid, at a concentration of between 0.1 and 5 percent; (ii) an anti-

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inflammatory agent, at a concentration of between 0.1 and 5 percent; or and (iii) a hydrogel at a concentration of between 0.5 to 10 percent, wherein the ratio of chlorhexidine free base and the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 to 1:5.

18. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial medical article catheter of claim 17, wherein the concentration of organic acid in the solution is between 0.1 and 2 percent.
19. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial medical article catheter of claim 17, wherein the concentration of anti-inflammatory agent is between 0.1 and 1 percent.
20. (Currently amended) The antimicrobial medical article catheter of claim 17, wherein the concentration of hydrogel in the solution is between 1 and 5 percent.
21. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a medical article catheter comprising the steps of
  - (i) placing contacting the medical article in with a solution consisting essentially of comprising (a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, reagent alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, and mixtures a mixture

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thereof; and (b) a mixture an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and water soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 and 1:5;

(ii) soaking contacting the medical article in with the solution for an effective period of time to allow the medical article to swell;

(iii) removing the medical article from the solution; and

(iv) drying the medical article.

22. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a catheter having a lumen comprising the steps of

(i) exposing contacting the lumen of the catheter to with a solution consisting essentially of comprising (a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, reagent alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof; and (b) a mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and water soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 and 1:5;

(ii) filling contacting the lumen of the catheter with a solution for an effective period of time to allow the lumen of the catheter to swell;

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(iii) removing the solution from the lumen of the catheter; and

(iv) drying the catheter.

23. (New) A catheter prepared by treating a polymeric catheter for about thirty minutes to about one hour with a solution comprising a solvent and an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of the chlorhexidine free base and the water soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 and 1:5 and wherein the treated catheter exhibits sustained antimicrobial activity for at least about six days.

24. (New) The catheter of claim 23, wherein the solvent comprises between 75 and 95 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 5 and 25 percent (volume/volume) methanol.